

50 Years of Nigeria — 40 Years of JBN  
A Brief History



**JULIUS BERGER**  
**NIGERIA PLC**



## 50 Years of Nigeria — 40 Years of JBN A Brief History

This brochure offers a brief history of Nigeria since independence, structured by key events that were of national interest. The events have been chosen to paint a picture of the country's economic, social and political development through to the present day. The list does not claim to be exhaustive but instead sets out to offer a basis for a deeper understanding of the Federal Republic of Nigeria today. Parallel to these events, it outlines major points in the development of Julius Berger Nigeria PLC, correlating them where appropriate to the country's progress.

# 1960

## Introducing Nigeria

Nigeria today is one of the big three players in Africa. Roughly half a century after independence, the country with more than 300 major ethnic groups and three major languages is increasingly playing a key role on the continent. With a population of 140 million (almost half of whom are under the age of 16), spread across nearly one million square kilometers, it is swiftly becoming one of the main drivers of the African economy, not least thanks to a strong agricultural sector and prime oil and gas resources. It has reached its position today, characterized by a GDP growth rate in excess of six percent, despite embracing three significantly different climatic zones and having had to contend with a North/South divide. In the post-colonial era, political stability took a while to emerge, but is now firmly entrenched with a form of democratic government based on the US model, with a National Assembly consisting of

a Senate and House of Representatives forming the legislative, and the Presidency constituting the executive. Moreover, the country relies on a federal structure entailing three legislative tiers: central, state and local government. The Federal Republic of Nigeria today is made up of 36 states, all of which are represented at the central government level. In 2007, following the presidential elections, for the first time a civilian administration in office for eight years handed over to a successor government. The following pages are intended to familiarize you with key milestones in the country's progress since independence.

## Introducing Julius Berger Nigeria PLC

Listed by African Business magazine among the top 50 companies in West Africa in its 2008 rankings by market value, Julius Berger Nigeria PLC was originally set up as a Lagos-based subsidiary of a German construction company that arrived in Nigeria to work on a bridge-building project. It swiftly diversified into road construction, and its development started to run parallel to that of the country, leading to many Nigerians regarding the firm as a key "partner in progress". With its legal structure transformed into that of a Nigerian private limited liability in 1970 and converted to a public liability company in 1979, the company played a strong role not only in the creation of the country's fledgling industrial and civil infrastructure in the 1980s. During this time it also became closely involved in building the new capital, Abuja, not to mention key roads, railways, ports and dams. Synchronous to its geographical expansion out of Lagos, in 1991 the company was trans-

formed into a public limited company and floated on the Lagos Stock Exchange, where it attracted strong Nigerian shareholders, who hold the majority of its shares. Toward the end of the decade the head office relocated to Abuja, with key operational hubs in place in the North, South, East and West of the country. It was during this time that Julius Berger Nigeria PLC first completed major oil and gas industry projects, thus significantly expanding its service portfolio. The following pages are intended to familiarize you with key milestones in the company's progress since its foundation.



## 1960, October 1

Nigeria achieves independence of Great Britain and becomes a dominion, with Lagos as its new capital. The photo shows some of the festivities in Lagos.



# 1963 – 1967

Population: approx. 56 million  
Federal states: 3  
Size: 923,768 km<sup>2</sup>  
(1963)



## 1963

The First Republic is declared, with a constitution adopted by parliament. The first President elected is Nnamdi Azikiwe, an Igbo from Zungeru, with Abubakar Talewa as Prime Minister under him. The country is structured in three autonomous regions: the Northern, Western and Eastern region, each with wide-ranging powers, its own constitutions, public services and marketing boards. Less than a year later a fourth region is created, the Mid-West, to satisfy the demand among minorities.

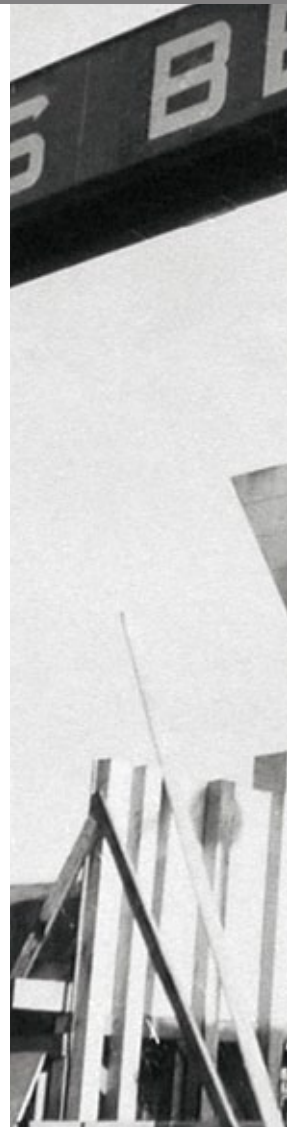


## 1966, January

The army attempts to seize power by coup d'état. While the bid for the reins of government fails, the Prime Minister is assassinated. General John Ironsi emerges as the new Chairman of the Military Government and makes a concerted effort to unite the country.

## 1965, August

Signing of the contract for the construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mainland Bridge in Lagos (later called the Eko Bridge) between Nigerian Ministry of Public Works, the German Ambassador and the CEO of Julius Berger Tiefbau AG, Germany. The bridge project is financed by a soft loan from the Federal Republic of Germany to Nigeria in honor of its newfound independence, with financial support from the KfW development bank, as were other projects in the 1960s and early 1970s.



1967, May 27

The government seeks to streamline administration and foster post-colonial cohesion by sub-dividing the four main regions of the country into 12 federal states. Lagos State, Western State, Mid Western State, East Central State, Rivers State, South Eastern State, North Western State, Kano State, North Central State, Kwara State, Benue Plateau State and North Eastern State.



1966, July

Second military coup. General Yakubu Gowon becomes Head of State.

1967, May 30

The Eastern Region, roughly speaking today's Delta, declares independence from the federation. The Biafran War begins, with the world's media attention focusing for a time on the bloodshed in Nigeria.



# 1968 – 1972

Federal states: 12  
Major ethnic groups: 3  
Ethnic groups: 430  
(1968)



## 1968

2<sup>nd</sup> Mainland Bridge (ext. I and II). This first phase of the bridge involved the bridge proper and the ramps at both ends.



## 1971, July

Nigeria joins OPEC, becoming the 10<sup>th</sup> member and thus taking its place on the international stage as an oil producer, only some 20 years after Shell first started extraction.

## 1970, January 12

End of the Biafran War, when the Eastern region capitulates to the Federation under General Yakubu Gowon and his senior staff officers, such as Lt. Col. Shehu Yar'Adua.

## 1971

Contract award of the Jos Water Supply Extension Project: the Liberty Dam.

Commencement of the construction of the Lagos-Badagry Road.

## 1970, February 18

Incorporation of Julius Berger Nigeria LTD.

## 1970

Onitsha Bridge repaired in just seven weeks using a temporary Bailey structure to reconnect the East and West of the country.

Contract award for the construction of the Itoikin Bridge by the Lagos State Government to Julius Berger. In response to this clear continuation of its presence in Nigeria, the company resolves to register a subsidiary as a Nigerian company.



# 1973 – 1976

Naira 1 = US Dollar 1.52  
Beginning of the oil boom  
(1973)

## 1973

Introduction of the Naira to replace the Pound.



## 1975, July 29

Third military coup, Brigadier Murtala Muhammed made Head of State; administration streamlined, the number of federal states expanded to 19 federal states and central government accorded stronger powers.

## 1975

Merger of Julius Berger Bauboag AG with Grün & Bilfinger AG into Bilfinger + Berger Bauaktiengesellschaft.

Construction work starts on the Lagos Ibadan Expressway.

Julius Berger Nigeria LTD awarded its first industrial contract for the Volkswagen assembly plant.

## 1975, July 27

Contract awarded for the vast Lagos Inner Ring Road system: The conceptual planning for this road, known as “the liberating ring” was devised by Julius Berger Nigeria LTD.

## 1973

Jebba Bridge over the Niger awarded.



## 1976, February 5

Resolution published by the federal government to relocate the seat of government to a new capital city, Abuja, Decree No. 6 “Federal Capital Territory Act”.



## 1976, February 13

Murtala Muhammed is assassinated, but the attempted revolt is put down. Lieutenant General Olusegun Obasanjo is appointed Head of State and presses ahead with preparations for a return to civil government, including the drafting of a new constitution.

## 1976

General Obasanjo’s government introduces “Operation Feed the Nation”, which endeavored to mobilize the country toward self-sufficiency and self-reliance in food by encouraging local food production by cultivation of all available land.



## 1976

By the mid-1970s, with the oil boom, the backlog of ships waiting in Lagos’ lagoon to offload their cargoes was so large that there was a clear danger that perishables would be worthless by the time they were on land – and the country suffered severe supply bottlenecks.

## 1976, July 1

Tin Can Island contract awarded for the extension of the Lagos port facilities.

Jebba Road Bridge commissioned.

## 1976

Work starts on the vast Lagos Inner Ring Road system, liberating the city from the congestion that was throttling it.



1977



## 1977

Only 18 months after the project's inception, the Tin Can Island port is commissioned, with eight berths in total.

# 1978 – 1979

Oil: 30% of GDP  
Coastline: 853 km  
(1979)



## 1979, August 11

Presidential elections. Power ceded to a civilian government under President Shehu Shagari, who won the election (beginning of the Second Republic).



### 1979

Warri port built: A key sea/inland interface was thus established, with six berths, offering a real transshipment alternative to the bottleneck in Lagos.

### 1978

Construction work on the Delta Steel plant in Warri begins, the latter the first major pillar in the government's industrialization plans.



1980 – 1985



## 1983, December 31

Military coup, suspension of the constitution and thus end of the Second Republic, military regime under Major General Muhammadu Buhari.



## 1985, August 27

Major General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida becomes Head of State, new program of democratization announced.

## 1983

Niger Road Bridge, Ajaokuta.

Work on Abuja's Central Area commences, as do road works on the B6/B12 carriageways there.

Commissioning of the Jos steel rolling mill.

## 1982

Work progresses on the Ajaokuta steel plant, the second part of the government's heavy industry projects and a massive complex.

## 1981

Warri bypass, completing the port-hinterland route.

## 1980

Julius Berger Nigeria LTD starts to focus increasingly on projects outside Lagos, such as the water processing plant in Jos, and projects in Ajaokuta and Warri.

Contract for Wuse I residential district, Abuja.



# 1986 – 1990

Over 8 cities of over 500,000 inhabitants  
Naira 1.75 = US Dollar 1  
Non-oil GDP growth rate: 5%  
(1986)

## 1986

Launch of the Structural Adjustment Programme with the focus on an outward-oriented trade policy that emphasized production and trade as dictated by Nigeria's comparative advantages, with export diversification and the elimination of various import tariffs.



## 1987

ECOWAS conference in Abuja.

## 1987

17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Julius Berger Nigeria LTD for the first time in Abuja, Abuja Nicon Noga Hilton Hotel to signal the company's commitment to the new capital.



## 1987, September 23

Creation of two new federal states, Katsina State and Akwa Ibom State.

## 1989, May

New constitution for the Third Republic enacted, foreseeing a President and National Assembly, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives as well as two political parties, the SDP and the NRC.



## 1990

The battalion estates for Brigade of Guards built in Abuja – low-cost sustainable housing for the first time.

Abuja's International Conference Centre is built in record time.

Work commences on the Ajaokuta-Warri railway line.

## 1989

Minna Township Development Plan: stormwater drainage system in place; cultural center complete with mosque and guesthouse built.

Zungeru roads and bridge completed.

## 1988

Itakpe-Ajaokuta railway project commenced in order to connect the ore mines to the steel mills.



1991



## 1991, July

The first Organization of African Unity (OAU) Conference is held in Abuja, attended by 53 of the 54 member states; parliamentary elections are held to the two Houses and the Third Republic takes shape.

Creation of nine new states (Kebbi, Jigawa, Yobe, Tabara, Abia, Anambra, Delta, Kogi, Osun). The Federal Capital Territory remains independent.

## 1991, July 30

The AGM resolves to transform Julius Berger Nigeria LTD into a public limited company, and the company became Julius Berger Nigeria PLC.



1991



1991, December 12

Seat of government officially moved to Abuja.

## 1991

On leaving Lagos as the official seat of government, before moving to Abuja the President officially commissioned the Third Mainland Bridge, connecting Lagos Island to the mainland at Oworonshoki.

# 1992 – 1995

Population: 88.5 million  
(1992)

## 1992

Elections to the National Assembly are held. The elected leader of the House of Representatives is Rep. Konkusu while Senator Aiyu leads the Upper House.

## 1992

Work begins on Ikot Abasi aluminum smelter, another key industrial project in the Delta heartland.

Challawa Gorge Dam inaugurated.

Federal Secretariat Ministry Building, Abuja, phase I commissioned.





1993, June 12

Presidential election takes place peacefully, won by Mashoodi Abiola, only to be annulled by the government of Babangida (end of the Third Republic).



1993, August 27

Civilian interim government led by Chief Ernest Shonekan.

1993, November 17

Chief Shonekan is forced to resign by General Sani Abacha, who appoints himself Head of State; Nigeria becomes isolated from the world.

1995, November

Following the execution of Ogoni leader Ken Saro-Wiwa, winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize (1994); sanctions by the EU and the USA against Nigeria are intensified. Nigeria's membership of the Commonwealth is suspended.

1995

National Assembly Annex, Abuja, completed.



# 1996 – 1998

Federal states: 36 plus the FCT  
GDP: US Dollar 106 billion  
Agriculture: 33% of GDP  
Population: 123 million  
(1998)



## 1996

Ikot Abasi aluminum smelter plant.

National Hospital Abuja redesigned and built.

Start of infrastructural work for the LNG plant on Bonny Island – the single largest public private industrial investment in African history.

# 1997

Creation of six new states, Gombe, Ekiti, Ebonyi, Bayelsa, Zamfara, and Nassarawa, meaning that Nigeria was henceforth made up of 36 federal states, while the Abuja Federal Capital Territory remains independent.



# 1998, June 8

Death of Sani Abacha; moderate General Abdulsalami Abubakar heads a transitional government. All political prisoners are released; political parties reform.



# 1998

JBN PLC's Head Office relocates to Abuja.

Completion of construction work for Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

# 1999 – 2000

GDP growth rate: 4%

## 1999, February 27

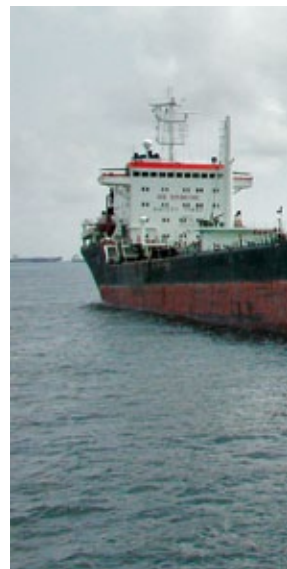
Former Head of State Olusegun Obasanjo wins the presidential elections.



## 1999

Shell's Osubi Airport in Warri inaugurated.

Work forges ahead on Bonny Island. JBN builds the residential area and camp for Nigeria LNG, Africa's first joint-venture LNG company, while also contributing the infrastructure, the foundations of the plant and a special LNG jetty.



# 1999, May 29

Inauguration of President Obasanjo, beginning of the Fourth Republic. Nigeria is re-accepted into the Commonwealth.



## 2000

Official state visit by Bill Clinton, the President of the United States of America, to Abuja.

## 2000

Contracts for National Stadium, Abuja, and for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) building awarded.

## 2002

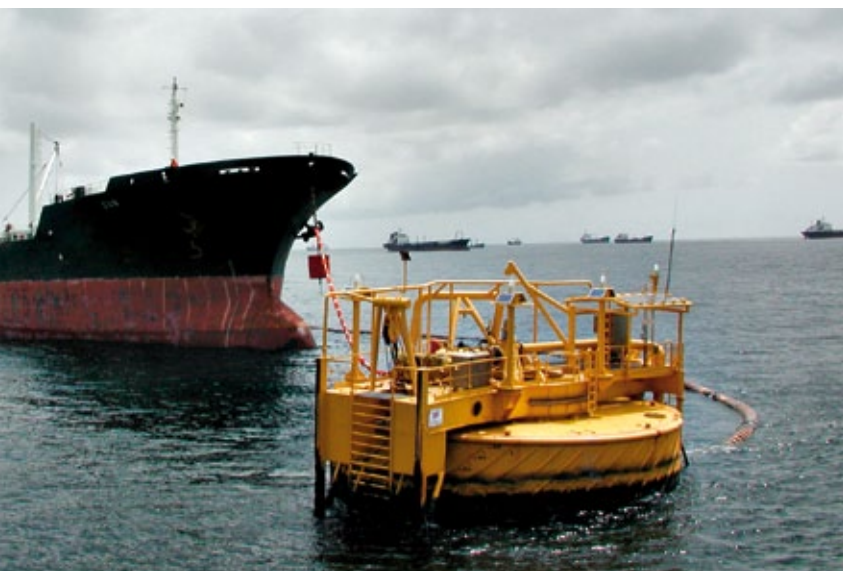
Work starts on the Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja.

Construction of the Atlas Cove jetty in the Lagos harbor basin.

## 2001

Contract awarded for the Tombia Bridge over the Nun River, opening up Bayelsa State to development.

Single-point mooring (SPM) built off Lagos harbor to enable tankers to unload refined petroleum products.



# 2003

## 2003, April / May

Presidential elections and elections to the Senate and House of Representatives; President Obasanjo wins a second four-year term.

## 2003, October

8<sup>th</sup> All Africa Games held in Abuja.



## 2003

Completion of National Stadium and Velodrome.



## 2003, December

52<sup>nd</sup> Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Abuja.



## 2003

Major new trunk roads constructed in Abuja.

Civil works for Train 4, Bonny NLNG get underway.

# 2005

GDP: US Dollar 174.1 billion



## 2005

Gleneagles G8 Summit – President Obasanjo becomes the first Nigerian leader to participate in such a summit, where, spearheading other African presidents, he pushes for debt relief for Africa.



## 2005

Contract awarded for Tinapa Business Centre, the single largest purely private infrastructure investment in Africa.

Contract commences for 36 NNPC mega-filling stations, one per state, to assist in easing the country's difficulties in getting petrol to motorists nationwide.

NLNG Administration buildings modernized, Bonny Island.

Construction of Obajana Cement Factory starts.





# 2006 – 2008

Oil and gas: 40% of GDP  
Population: 135 million (2007)

## 2006, April 21

Under the guidance of President Obasanjo and Finance Minister Okonjo-Iweala, the Federal Republic of Nigeria settles its debts owed to the Paris Club, meaning that the country's future budgets are now no longer held hostage to interest payments. The redemption was greeted by several days of nationwide rejoicing.

## 2007, May 29

Inauguration of President Yar'Adua who succeeds Olusegun Obasanjo in the first change of civil government by election in the history of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He pledges to enact his "7 Point Agenda" and prioritizes the "rule of law". Both he believes will help him fulfill his Vision 2020 for the country: Nigeria to progress from emerging nation to threshold industrialized state in that time, meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), becoming the African economy alongside South Africa, and emulating the achievements of Brazil, Russia, India and China.



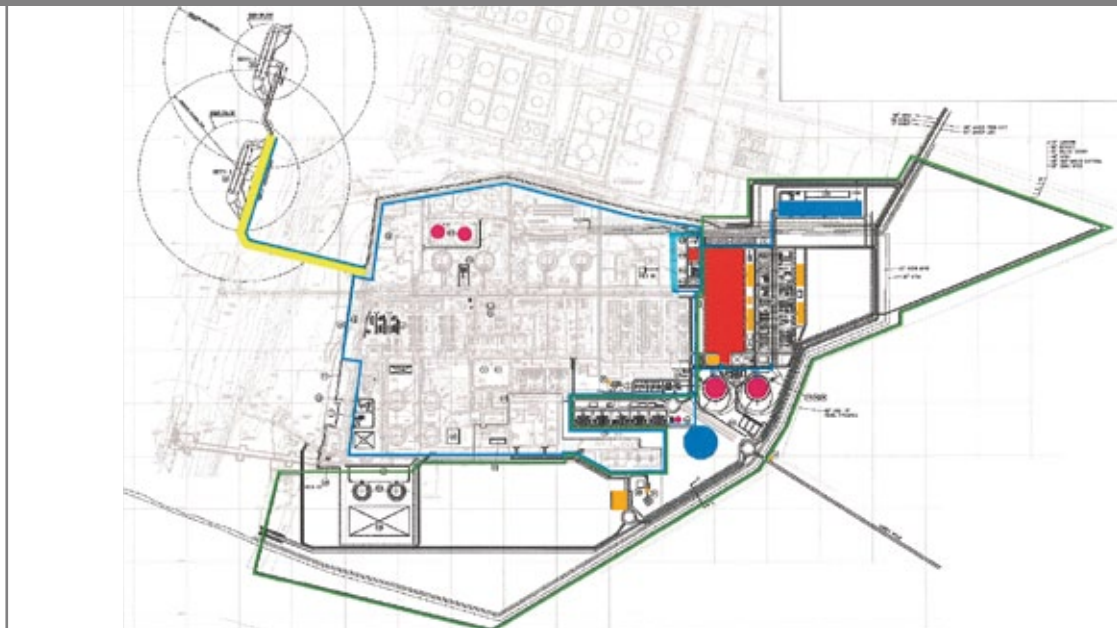
## 2007

New Senate and House of Representatives office wings to the National Assembly complex completed, allowing the process of government to be concentrated in one place.



## 2007, June 6–8

The leaders of the G8 nations hold their annual summit in Heiligendamm, Germany. During the congress, they meet Africa Outreach representatives, including Nigeria's President Yar'Adua.



## 2008

Dualization of the B6/B12 carriageways commences in Abuja.

Work proceeds apace on Chevron's Escravos Gas-to-Liquids plant and on Shell's Gbaran/Ubie site.

The map of the ever-expanding Bonny NLNG plant, where Train 7 is being planned. The country is now using a percentage of the gas gathered to drive industrialization forward.

# 2008 – 2009

## 2008

Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, President of the Republic of Nigeria, on Vision 2020: "We are resolved to set the country on the right path to becoming one of the 20 largest economies in the world by 2020. This is only possible by eradication of extreme poverty which we have resolved to achieve through human capital development, wealth creation, employment creation through appropriate partnership with the private sector."



## 2008, Autumn

The Oil & Gas Sector Reform Implementation Committee draws up plans to transform the NNPC into a public limited company that will engage in business as an internationally active oil company.

## 2008

Phase 1 begins of construction of the new Central Bank Lagos building, with the existing facility being torn down to give way for a new 19-storey building. Planning is highly complex, given two facts: Bank operations have to be maintained and massive piling is required without the pile-driving disturbing the foundations of the adjacent high-rises.

The Akwa Ibom State has joined Abuja with the FCT and Lagos State as the third major area of interest for the company. Julius Berger carries out extensive road building projects to ease the pressure on important transport intersections and is awarded to build the new seat of government.



## 2008, November 6–8

President Horst Köhler of Germany pays an official visit to Nigeria, chairing the 4<sup>th</sup> Africa Forum in Abuja.



## 2009, March

Julius Berger Nigeria is awarded the contract to build the iconic Lekki-Ikoyi Link Bridge, and work commences on expanding the Lagos-Badagry Road from four to ten lanes. Both projects are critical parts of Lagos State's drive to ease traffic congestion in the mega city.

# 2009 – 2010

## 2009, July

Nigeria's NNPC and Algeria's Sonatrach sign an MoU covering construction of the 4,400 km long Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline from Warri in the South to Hassi R'Mel in the North.

## 2009, August

The Nigerian government declares an amnesty in the Niger Delta, encouraging militants to hand in their guns. It pledges in exchange to develop training schemes and employment opportunities, and to reconsider the derivation of national oil income allocated to the region. The Petroleum Industry Bill thus foresees greater participation of oil communities.



## 2010, February

Vice President Goodluck Jonathan is appointed Acting President.



## 2009, May

The Federal Capital Development Authority assigns Julius Berger Nigeria to rehabilitate and expand the Airport Expressway in Abuja to a future ten lanes highway across its entire 26.5 km length, from the City Gate to the airport entrance.

## 2009, November

The Nigerian Government, as part of its industrialization policy, appoints Julius Berger Nigeria PLC to build the final 22 km stretch of the Ajaokuta-Warri railway line and to ensure the existing tracks are in good shape, at long last connecting Ajaokuta to the port and thus the sea. A secondary line will connect the Warri steel plant to the trunk line.

## 2010, May

Germany's KfW Development Bank presses ahead with its prospective support for Nigeria's hydropower sector, testimony to the German government's desire to strengthen the Nigerian-German Energy Partnership. At the same time, E.ON becomes the first German energy major to commit to the development of Nigeria's domestic gas sector.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is sworn in as the substantive president after death of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.



## 2010, October 1

Nigeria celebrates the first 50 years of independence.

## 2010, July

Abuja hosts the "Developing 8" Heads of State Meeting, the economic development alliance formed between Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey. Over the last four years trade within the D-8 has almost doubled.

## 2010, Spring

Work commences on erecting the infrastructure at the Twin Lakes Estate in Lagos. Chevron Nigeria Ltd.'s pension fund is counting on Julius Berger Nigeria's customary skills and reliability to ensure the estate has power, water, and a functioning sewage and drainage system.

## 2010, July 8

40<sup>th</sup> AGM of Julius Berger Nigeria PLC.



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Julius Berger Nigeria PLC  
Corporate Headquarters  
Berger Junction  
Utako District  
P.O. Box 453  
Abuja F.C.T.

Phone: +234 (0) 803 906 7000  
Fax: +234 (9) 611 4444

E-mail: [jbn@julius-berger.com](mailto:jbn@julius-berger.com)  
[www.julius-berger.com](http://www.julius-berger.com)



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